Living Health Technology Assessments

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Disclosure

- Funded by federal, provincial, and territorial ministries of health.

- Application fees for three programs:

  - CADTH Common Drug Review (CDR)

  - CADTH pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR)

  - CADTH Scientific Advice

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H T A

A **multidisciplinary process** that summarises information about the **medical, social, economic and ethical issues** related to the use of a health technology in a systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner. Its aim is to inform the formulation of **safe, effective, health policies that are patient focused** and seek to achieve best value.

eunethta.eu

How is HTA done?

Most HTA involves some form of the following basic steps:

- Identify assessment topics
- Specify the assessment problems or questions
- Retrieve available relevant evidence
- Appraise quality of the evidence
- Synthesize evidence
- Formulate recommendations
- Disseminate assessment results and recommendations
- Monitor impact

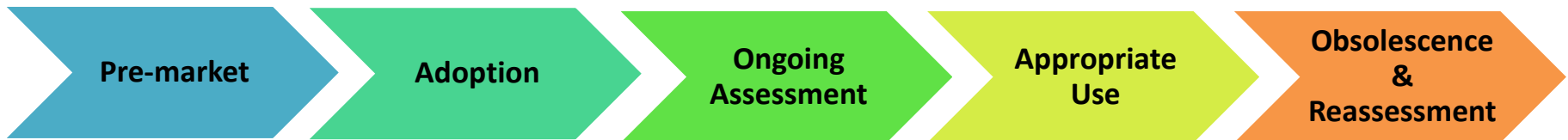Assessment

Appraisal

Decision-making

Challenges within HTA

- Initial adoption decisions based on limited evidence
  - Pivotal trials, well-controlled
    - Need for understanding of long-term impact, and real-world use
- Assessments are context dependent, and contexts change
  - New technologies
  - Decision priorities
  - New evidence
- Single point in time: reassessment? disinvestment?

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Health Technology Assessment → Health Technology Management

- Supports real-world decision-making at all levels, monitors and evaluates technology use over time, and identifies all of the consequences of implementation
- Dynamic, longitudinal

Requires "Living HTAs"

Pre-market	Adoption	Ongoing Assessment	Appropriate Use	Obsolescence & Reassessment

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Example: Health Technology Management

Assessment

Living Assessment

New evidence

Expert committee recommendation

- Any new evidence?
  - Different effect, quality?
  - Trigger for reassessment?
  - Trigger for re-recommendation?

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Opportunities for Living HTAs

- Emerging technologies
  - e.g., rapid testing, point of care, apps, wearables
- Disease based assessments
  - New technology (comparator) in established disease area
  - Re-assessment and disinvestment decisions
- Appropriate consideration of long-term data, including safety and harms

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Challenges to Living HTAs

- Need for updates across a range of assessment aspects
  - Comparative clinical effectiveness and safety, cost-effectiveness, patient perspectives and experiences, organizational and implementation issues, ethical issues
- Need for updates across a range of health technologies
- Prioritization of decisions or topics to "live"
  - Capacity issues
- How long to keep alive?
- Living HTAs require Living Recommendations
  - When to act on new evidence?
- Remain patient centred across the lifecycle

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Facilitators to Living HTAs (at CADTH)

- Software and automation
  - e.g., DistillerSR, exploring text mining, machine learning
- Strong Information Services department
  - Regular alert service
- Flexible and accessible web publishing platforms
- Stable funding and staff
- Collaboration

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